

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, April 12, 2016
6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting was held by City Council on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ralph Atkinson, Ronald Atkinson, Odessa Gregg, Joseph Frazier and Emerson Hunt were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown City Clerk Pam Jones and the City Attorney.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Gregg gave the opening prayer. Mr. Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Davis welcomed citizens, guests and the press. (Hometown TV).

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 8, 2016, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Ms. Elizabeth Fick, Human Resources Director, was named *March Employee of the Month* and presented with a gift certificate. Mayor Davis thanked Ms. Fick for a job well done.

The Mayor's Monthly Beautification award for February was awarded to Ms. Cheryl Corson. Ms. Corson was not present to accept the award.

Ms. Alicia Morrison gave a presentation on the services of the Pee Dee Coalition and what they offered to our citizens. They are a volunteer, non-profit organization, dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence and child abuse, and to the needs of the victims. She also reminded that Denim Day would be held on Wednesday, April 20th at 11:00 a.m. in front of City Hall and extended an invitation for all to attend.

Regarding bids on Grice's Recreation roof, Mr. Ammons stated that this job had been properly advertised and money for this job comes from the remaining money from the 1 cent sales tax projects at Grice's. Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to accept the low bid of \$16, 980 from Nunnery Roofing for a new roof at Grice's Recreation Center, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ammons commented that during the City-wide cleanup, over 1,000 tires and over 200 tv's were picked up. The Street & Sanitation departments worked very hard on this. AWS has had some problems with their trucks and this has caused delay in picking up trash on the assigned days. They have brought in a 27 yard truck and should be back on schedule this week. He reminded everyone that Relay for Life would be held on Saturday, April 30th.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

The Attorney had nothing to report at this time.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor Davis commented that all department reports were sent to Council in their packets.

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Councilman Emerson Hunt had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Odessa Gregg commented that there are 7 churches in District 5 and last week Door of Hope had a very successful conference. Beginning this week, the Women's Conference at the Greater Highway Church of Christ will commence. Councilwoman Gregg thanked the City of Marion for their cooperation in helping with congestion on Liberty Street during these events. She also thanked the Mayor, Council and citizens for their hospitality during these conferences.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilman Joseph Frazier commented that the building on the corner of West Liberty Street and Gibson Street and on Murray Street, owned by Mr. Simon Jenkins, is a disgrace to the City, due to the terrible shape it's in and something needs to be done about it. Mayor Davis responded that even with dilapidated buildings, there is a legal process that must be followed. State senators and representatives are working to try and help municipalities deal with this issue.

Councilman Michael Baker had no comment at this time.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis commented that our Recreation bus is parked outside and is lettered as Park, Recreation and Tourism, which will possibly allow the City to qualify for some grants. The bus didn't cost the City or taxpayers anything. It will be used to take players to away games. Mayor Davis stated that the MASC Annual meeting will be held July 14 – 17 in Charleston. The meetings give us the opportunity to talk to other municipal representatives and MASC give updates on all pending reports that

contain a lot of valuable information. Mayor Davis stated that most streets in the City of Marion do not belong to the City, but to the State, and SCDOT is responsible for repairing those streets. Summer Camp is approaching and they will be trying to get free meals for the kids attending. Mayor Davis commented that the Summer Camp received a \$5,000 grant from the Healthcare Foundation to take the kids a trip to Wild Water & Wheels at Surfside Beach. Also, the National Day of Prayer will be held at Marion Baptist Church on May 5th at 7:00 p.m. The Quarterly Town Hall meeting will be held at the Opera House on April 18th at 6:00 p.m. and everyone is encouraged to attend. Mrs. Patricia Atkinson will be present to speak on the goals and plans of the Historic Marion County Awakened committee. Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson asked that Vickie Nichols look into a grant for upgrading the building at the firing range, for training, use of the Police Department, etc. It needs some upgrading, but the department would get a lot of good use from it. Mayor Davis responded that he thought it was a good idea and would have Vickie look into it. Chief Dewayne Tennie also thought this was good idea. Mayor Davis stated that Mike Richardson would be retiring in a couple of days and the new hire should be able to handle this renovation. Mr. Ammons commented that he thought the new hire would be very capable. Councilman Frazier asked that Mr. Ammons speak on the letter from the County

regarding funding the Recreation Department, as they (County) are looking for a response as to what they have offered. Mayor Davis responded that this would be placed on next month's agenda. Mayor Davis also thanked the County for working together with the City to help make life better for our kids and does appreciate it. Ms. Dolly Boyer of the A-Team Neighborhood Watch commented that they would once again be washing police cars and having a lunch for the Police Department at her house on April 30th, after doing some competition at the Relay for Life event. Mayor Davis thanked Ms. Boyer for her time and energy spent in keeping her neighborhood safe and in getting other neighborhoods involved with the Police Department and their willingness to help. Ms. Boyer stated that the neighborhoods' relationship with the Police Department and the City is what makes our neighborhoods safer. Mayor Davis commented that kids do what they see grownups do, and this is a great example of how we all work together.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session for Legal Update from the Attorney, as well as a Personnel Matter. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson and carried. Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis reported that no action was taken. Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis

City Clerk Pam Jones

Taped: April 12, 2016